

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #25
September 18, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

- The World Health Organization now reports that a total 246 people have been confirmed to have been infected with H5N1 influenza, 144 of whom have died (58.5%). The only country reporting any recent disease activity is Indonesia. This week, two cases that occurred in the spring were confirmed by laboratory tests. One had dead birds in the vicinity of his home. The other cared for his sister during her illness and human-to-human transmission cannot be ruled out.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- Planning continues for the Statewide PanFlu Exercise “Fowl Play” scheduled to be conducted on October 23-24 to include allocation of annual flu vaccine for mass vaccination sites.
- The State Pandemic Flu Advisory Group met on September 18 in Richmond. Among the presentations: Promising Practices from: The Eastern Shore Rural Health System, the City of Alexandria, the Pittsylvania and Danville Public Schools with their Local Health District. The Director of the Department of Human Resources Management addressed her agency’s pandemic preparation efforts.
- Public Information Representatives from colleges and universities around the Commonwealth, will be meeting at the University of Richmond on September 25 to address public communications issues relative to a pandemic threat.
- The Virginia Association of School Superintendents will be sponsoring a “Preparing for Pandemic” Conference for Superintendents, School Board Members, School / Division Staff and Community Health Personnel in Charlottesville on Nov 8. Visit: <http://vass.edschool.virginia.edu/homepages/calendar.htm>
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31, postponed from August 22.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH Activities – Regional Reports

- **Eastern Region**
 - Regional Medical Consultant gave pandemic flu presentation to Eastern Shore school nurses
 - Regional Public Information Officer and Regional Medical Consultant gave a pandemic flu presentation to the Regional Literacy Council.
 - Regional Public Information Officer attended Delmarva Task Force meeting in Berlin, MD with representatives from poultry industry, USDA, public health, other agencies to address avian influenza in poultry and wild birds.
 - Regional Medical Consultant and Virginia Beach Health Director gave Medical Grand Rounds on pandemic influenza at Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital.
 - Regional Training Coordinator and Regional Administrative Assistant are co-coordinating the Hospital Pandemic Flu Workshop to be held on September 26.
 - Regional Planner developing an exercise with Chesapeake Health Department and RHCC during state pandemic flu exercise Fowl Play.
 - Regional Medical Consultant attended Sentara Healthcare pandemic flu planning group meeting.
- **Northern Region**
 - Responding to requests from local health departments, regional radio public service announcements have been produced, with assistance from George Mason University radio studio, and will be distributed in coming weeks to stations across the National Capital Region.
 - NOVA Regional PIO is facilitating interview/filming process for HHS pandemic flu preparedness videos, which will be shown on HHS website and used in other HHS communications pieces. These will show (and differentiate) what Virginia state and local agencies are doing to prepare for pandemic flu.
 - At request of health officials committee of the Council of Governments, a pandemic flu communications plan for the National Capital Region is being drafted (by the Nova VDH PIO). Spokesperson training surrounding pandemic flu issues is being developed for the NCR as well.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**
 - Presentation to another property management group, with representatives from all the businesses in the property complex.
 - Having completed the brochure and posters, the Communication with the Public group is now working on hotline messages and training as well as plans for a City-wide Saturday pandemic workshop. Power Point CD's have been created for use by group presenters and for use by the trainees in their own organizations. Coordinator of the City Multicultural Services program is working on materials and methods of outreach to over 30 local culture-based organizations.
 - City GIS is creating mapping of potential locations within easy walking distance for all residents for use if any kind of distribution to residents is required (obviously applicable for non-pandemic situations also.)
- **Arlington**
 - Director provided a presentation to 52 of our Medical Reserve Corp. We have also begun work on strengthening our partnership with the Fort Myer Andrew Rader

Clinic and the Pentagon DiLorenzo TRICARE clinic on issues related to pandemic influenza.

- **Central Shenandoah**

- **Chesapeake**

- Planner gave a presentation to the Virginia Association for Home Care- Eastern Region quarterly meeting on Sept 7. The VDH video was viewed and a number of hand-out materials related to the Home Care community were distributed.
- General PanFlu awareness and educational brochures have arrived and will be used for public distribution. In addition we are in the process of reviewing educational material specific to home care for pandemic flu to facilitate the creation of a care giving guide.
- In conjunction with the PanFlu Task force initiatives, formal invitations to Department Heads to participate in PanFlu TTXs in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Sept 21 and Oct 24, were sent by City officials.

- **Chesterfield**

- Conducted one of two scheduled presentations to health care professionals at 2 businesses.
- Extended employment offer for the Health Educator position; awaiting reply.
- Began screening applicants for the Office Services Specialist for PanFlu project.
- District planner updated Colonial Heights LEPC on the district's PanFlu efforts.

- **Chickahominy**

- Continued the coordination for the Goochland Schools hand cleanliness program.
- Provided PanFlu video to Bon Secours Home Health for their staff
- Extended offer for Pandemic Flu Coordinator for the District.

- **Cumberland Plateau**

- Planner and Business Manager presented PanFlu exercise and dispensing site plans to clerical staff.
- Management Committee (Director, Nurse Manager, Business Manager, Nurse Supervisors, Clerk Supervisors, and Planner) met to review Partner Invitation List, Exercise Master Schedule of Events List, and Checklist to initiate PanFlu exercise planning efforts
- Director, Epidemiologist, and Planner attended the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council (partner states include Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia) meeting to provide updates on previous, current, and future PanFlu activities including Tabletop, Exercise, Dispensing Sites, Summit, County Partner meetings, Draft District and County PanFlu Plans.
- Planner distributed 24 invitations to the District's town and county attorneys to request their attendance at isolation and quarantine training in the event of a PanFlu event.
- Epidemiologist attended the Southwest Region Epi meeting regarding current and future PanFlu activities.

- **Fairfax**

- Child Care Summit - attended by over 300 child care providers
- Health Director led the initial meeting of a newly created Human Services Community Partner Organization Planning group that is organizing a December 1st PanFlu Summit for partners of the county Human Services Agencies.
- Agency COOP planning continued; County wide COOP "kick-off" meeting attended by HD reps; Health Director outlined to the county agencies the differences to be incorporated in COOP planning for a pandemic.

- Agency COOP planning for a pandemic.
- Health Director convened a meeting of the Human Services Agencies to plan for the Dec. 1 summit for Partners of the Human Services Agencies.
- County's Pandemic Influenza Plan completed; sent to BOS for approval; plan posted online at:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/pandemicflu/countyplan.pdf>
- COOP Steering Committee announced changes had been made in planning guidance per Health Director's input regarding inclusion of specific measures to be taken in Pandemic Influenza event
- **Henrico**
 - Planner continued the planning process for the Pandemic Flu Mass Vaccination Exercise scheduled for November 4, 2006.
 - Health Director attended the Federal avian flu table top exercise conducted by the USDA.
 - Planner and Health Director attended the Richmond Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) meeting to discuss regional preparedness planning and coordination.
 - Epidemiologist attended the regional meeting of Infection Control Practitioners.
 - Planner and a Public Health Nurse attended Personal Protective Equipment train-the-trainer refresher training.
- **Lenowisco**
 - Planner and Business Manager presented pandemic influenza exercise and dispensing site plans to clerical staff.
 - Epidemiologist and Planner attended the Tennessee Pandemic Flu Summit in Kingsport, TN.
 - Scheduled a PanFlu Training for County Administrators and the City Manager to be conducted next month.
 - The Epidemiologist is meeting with local hospital to assist in Pandemic Flu Plan for hospital.
 - Met with Wise County Administrator to discuss adding PanFlu appendix to the County EOP.
 - PanFlu meeting with the business manager, nursing supervisor and Emergency Planner to discuss October drill and dispensing sites.
 - Director and Epidemiologist attended the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council (partner states include Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia) meeting to provide updates on previous, current, and future PanFlu activities including Tabletop, Exercise, Dispensing Sites, Summit, County Partner meetings, Draft District and County PanFlu Plans.
 - Planner distributed 38 invitations to the Lenowisco town and county attorneys to request their attendance at isolation and quarantine training as it relates to a PanFlu event.
 - Epidemiologist attended the Southwest Region Epi meeting regarding current and future PanFlu activities.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Presented Pandemic Influenza Planning info to the business and industry community at the Northern Shenandoah Valley Safety Net meeting in Winchester (Businesses from the City of Winchester, Clarke, Frederick, Warren, Page and Shenandoah Counties.

- Networked with members of the Warren County Fire & Rescue Department and Warren Memorial Hospital through the NW regional hospital group meeting in Harrisonburg.
- **Norfolk**
 - Prepared the child care and preschool initiative for rollout to providers of care across the city.
 - The Norfolk School Health Advisory Board, co-chaired by the Director of Operations of Norfolk Public Schools and the Norfolk Health Director, discussed the status of pandemic influenza planning by NPS, and the need to identify the regulations, state and federal, that require review in light of the potential impacts of a pandemic. Pandemic influenza family oriented educational materials will be sent home with kindergarten students in October, after enrollment stabilizes.
 - Health promotion is preparing laminated posters for distribution and display in city and school buildings.
 - Discussed the continuity of operations draft of the dispatch function for the city with the emergency manager.
 - Local hospitals have respiratory etiquette displays in their lobbies.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - September 10-16, 2006, is officially recognized by the city and county governments as Pandemic Flu Awareness Week. During the week we have offered many opportunities for the members of the community to become aware and be educated about Pandemic Influenza. Goodyear and Corning, Inc. have distributed information to all of their employees; about 2700 people. Many businesses, organizations and churches posted Pandemic Influenza Awareness messages on their marquees during the week.
 - Over 5000 “Disaster Supply Kit” lists were distributed in church bulletins on the first Sunday of Pandemic Flu Awareness Week.
 - Pandemic Influenza Educator, District Epidemiologist, and Emergency Planner presented information to community members at the Dan River High School, Tunstall Middle School, Chatham Middle School and Gretna Middle School. This was a community education initiative for Pandemic Flu Awareness Week sponsored by the Pittsylvania County Office of Emergency Management. A total of 67 individuals attended.
 - Pandemic Influenza Educator presented information to members Millcreek Baptist Church.
 - Pandemic Influenza Checklist Booklets were distributed to over 400 individuals in the Piedmont Mall.
 - Member of the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee presented information to the Galileo PTA; 90 people attended.
 - Member of the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee presented information to the Danville Board of Managers; 20 people attended.
 - Member of the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee presented information to the Danville Council of PTA Board; 15 people attended.
 - District Epidemiologist presented information to the Park Avenue Elementary PTA; 50 people attended.
- **Roanoke / Alleghany County**
 - Health Educator met with Roanoke Times to discuss internal PanFlu plans and pitch ideas for pandemic flu planning news coverage.

- Planners and Health Educator participated in Operation Fowl Play local planning meeting.
- Health Educator and Planner presented to Salem Veterans Hospital Pandemic Flu planning committee.
- Director and Health Educator were interviewed by the Roanoke Times about the new Health Educator position and pandemic flu planning.
- District management team, planners, and health educator discussed flu vaccination/drill events scheduled for early November. Multiple sites will be operated on the same days with shift changes etc. to occur at each in an effort to identify issues associated with staffing multiple sites simultaneously.
- **Southside**
 - Met with Brunswick County EOC Coordinator to discuss PanFlu outreach to community
 - Discussed with Halifax School contact having a letter / brochure go to all parents in September or October.
 - Discussed with Brunswick County contact doing a PanFlu presentation to school nurses and teachers.
 - PanFlu Educator presented to a senior citizens group at the South Boston Y.
 - Telephone calls to several churches and associations to schedule presentations.
 - Completed ordering supplies and equipment with PanFlu monies.
 - Completed PanFlu Phase II Goals and objectives, budget and gap analysis.
 - Completed EWP for PanFlu Phase II Health educator position.
 - Worked with PanFlu staff to expand contact list for the counties to include all churches.
 - PanFlu Educator completed the lesson plans and all handouts.
 - Planner to review lesson plans.
 - Planner and director met with local LEPC. Talked to the business rep about working together on PanFlu Planning for companies.
 - Planner worked on Powerpoint presentation and flyers for schools.
 - PanFlu educator and admin asst will conduct PanFlu presentation to a large Baptist Association on Monday.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville Area)**
 - Local pan flu work groups continue meeting.
 - Director presented PanFlu update at NW regional emergency responders' seminar.
 - Health Director presented PanFlu update at UVA Dept Head Exercise meeting.
 - Planner provided update on district pandemic influenza activities at UVA emergency preparedness committee meeting.
- **Three Rivers (Northern Neck)**
 - Business manager/former planner gave a talk to the Northern Neck Kiwani's group
 - Nurse manager gave a talk to school nurses in Gloucester county.
 - Health director gave a presentation on Avian flu/pandemic flu and preparedness to teachers and support staff in the WestPoint School district.
 - Health director met with four county administrators in the Northern Neck and worked with them to develop a draft "County pandemic flu preparedness plan"
 - Planning for the Northern Neck pandemic flu workshop and exercise continues.
- **Western Tidewater**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist met with City of Suffolk Risk Manager to plan several Pandemic Influenza presentations for city government employees.

- Epidemiologist met with Suffolk Public Works Department regarding surveillance of sentinel chicken flocks and various other vector borne diseases.
- Planner attended a pre-drill meeting with Emergency Manager of Franklin, Safety Officer of Southampton Memorial Hospital, Chief of the Franklin Rescue Squad and the LEPC. We are planning a community wide drill on September 30.
- Planner contacted Emergency Managers from all four jurisdictions to ask if they had any questions regarding the WTHD PanFlu Plan, the Flu Surge and Deaths from PanFlu for our district.
- Epidemiologist and Planner met with Suffolk Neighborhood Development to plan the Pandemic Influenza presentation for the “Suffolk City College.” Date scheduled for November 9, from 6-9PM.
- Planner distributed copies of the PanFlu Projected Fatalities DRAFT to the Suffolk BTAC. Both the Epidemiologist and Planner enforced our willingness to conduct Pandemic Influenza presentations to their respective organizations.
- Planner met with the Health Educator of Bon Secours Maryview Nursing Center to discuss Pandemic Influenza and to provide PanFlu educational materials.
- Provided Pandemic Influenza educational materials to a Masters Degree student from Old Dominion University.
- Planner met with nursing staff from all four jurisdictions to discuss plans for the Operation Fowl Play drill scheduled for October 25.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Epidemiologist and Planner held another session with the Pandemic Influenza planning group in Franklin County. Group was encouraged to start looking at what plans that they would need to contend with their particular specialties.
 - Planner went to Ferrum College to make a presentation to their Safety Committee. He will be returning at a later date to work with them on PanFlu and their EOPs.